

# Modern Apprenticeship Statistics

Quarter 1, 2023/24 [1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June]

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Making skills work for Scotland

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## Introduction

Modern Apprenticeships (MAs) provide employed individuals (either new or existing) with the opportunity to secure industry-recognised qualifications at a range of Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) levels while in employment.

This report provides a summary of quarter 1 (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023) statistics for MAs where there is a public funding contribution administered by SDS, on behalf of the Scottish Government. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, all Modern Apprenticeship progressions are included as new starts, please see our [User Guide](#) for more information. Further analysis can be found in the [Supplementary Tables](#) on the SDS website.

We welcome feedback on the report content and format. Please contact [user\\_feedback@sds.co.uk](mailto:user_feedback@sds.co.uk) with any feedback or questions.

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<sup>1</sup> [Scottish Government: Scotland's GDP 2023, Quarter 1](#)

## Economic Outlook

Scotland's GDP grew by 0.4% in the first quarter of 2023<sup>1</sup> and, while the economy is forecast to avoid a technical recession<sup>2</sup>, it is predicted that living standards will take until 2026/27 to recover to their 2021/22 level. This is partly due to the negative impact of stubborn inflation and rising interest rates on Scotland's economy.

There were 4,005 Modern Apprenticeship starts in Q1 2023, 1.5% higher than last year and 92% of what they were in Q1 2019/20, pre-pandemic. Apprenticeships are designed to help address critical skills needs and this may give some indication that employers are refocusing on their skills pipelines and workforce development.

SDS will continue to support the implementation of the Young Person's Guarantee, as detailed in the Programme for Government, and work closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that apprenticeships help to grow the young workforce and support economic renewal.

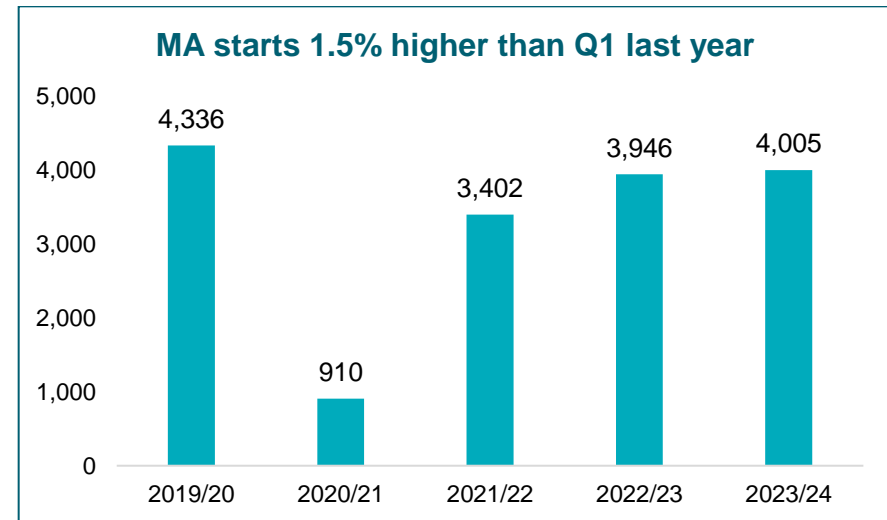
<sup>2</sup> [Scottish Fiscal Commission: Scotland's Economic and Fiscal Forecasts May 2023](#)

## Modern Apprenticeship: Starts

There were **4,005** Modern Apprenticeship starts in Q1. This is 1.5% (+59) higher than the same point last year and starts this quarter are 92% of what they were in Q1 2019/20, pre-pandemic.<sup>3</sup>

As of 1st April 2023, MA progressions are included as new starts. Progressions refer to participants who start the same Modern Apprenticeship framework at any level greater than their previous Modern Apprenticeship.<sup>4</sup> They were previously discounted from the MA start figure.

Figure 1: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts, Q1 2019/20 to Q1 2023/24



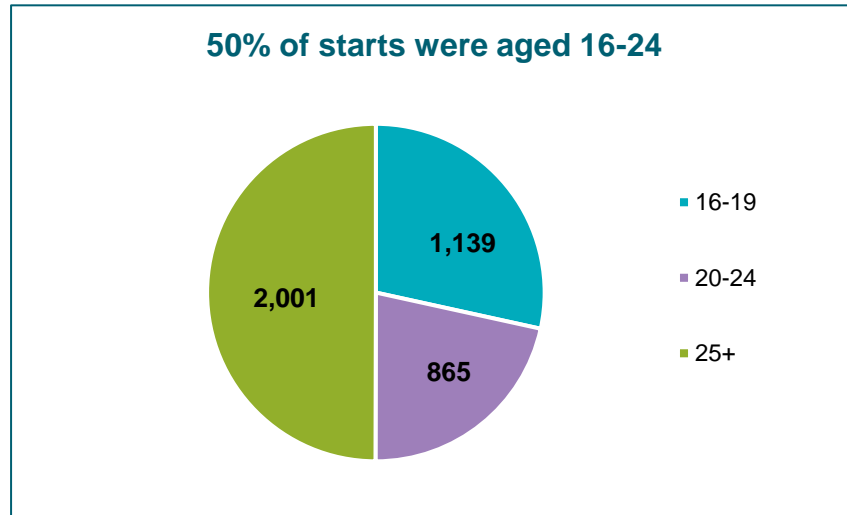
<sup>3</sup> Please note that references to the 'same point last year' refer to Q1 statistics published in [Modern Apprenticeship Statistics Q1 2022/23](#)

where the statistics cut-off date was one week early (1st April to 24th June 2022).

<sup>4</sup> [Modern Apprenticeship User Guide](#)

## Starts by age

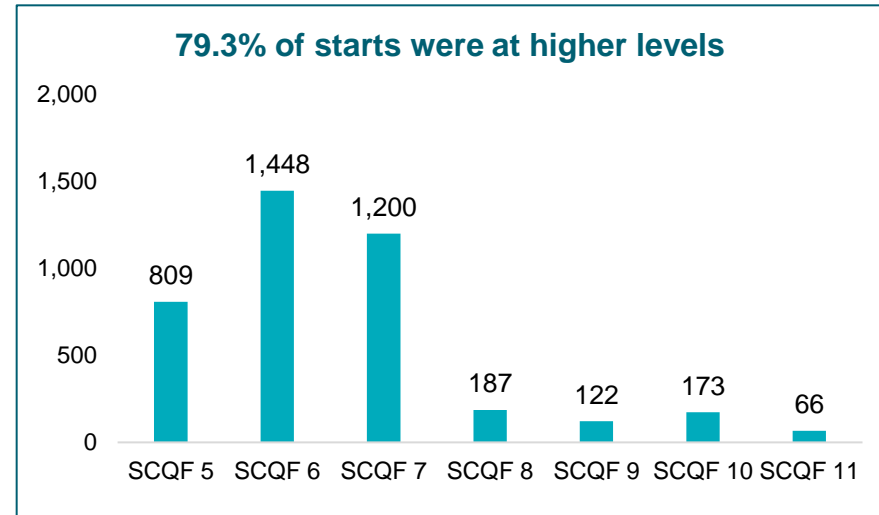
Figure 2: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by age group, Q1 2023/24



This quarter, 50.0% (2,001) of MA starts were aged 25+ and 50.0% (2,004) were aged 16-24. Compared to the same point last year, the 16-19 age group had the largest increase in starts (+84 or +8.0%). The 20-24 age group had 33 more starts than the same point last year (+4.0%) and the 25+ age group had 58 fewer starts (-2.8%).

## Starts by level

Figure 3: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by SCQF level, Q1 2023/24



The majority of starts this quarter were at SCQF level 6 or higher (79.3%). This is unchanged from Q1 2022/23. Relative to the same point last year, starts at SCQF level 10 increased by 46.6% from 118 to 173. This is due to the increase in starts to the *Construction: Professional Apprenticeship* framework.

## Starts by occupational grouping

**Figure 4: Number of Modern Apprenticeship starts by occupational grouping, Q1 2023/24**

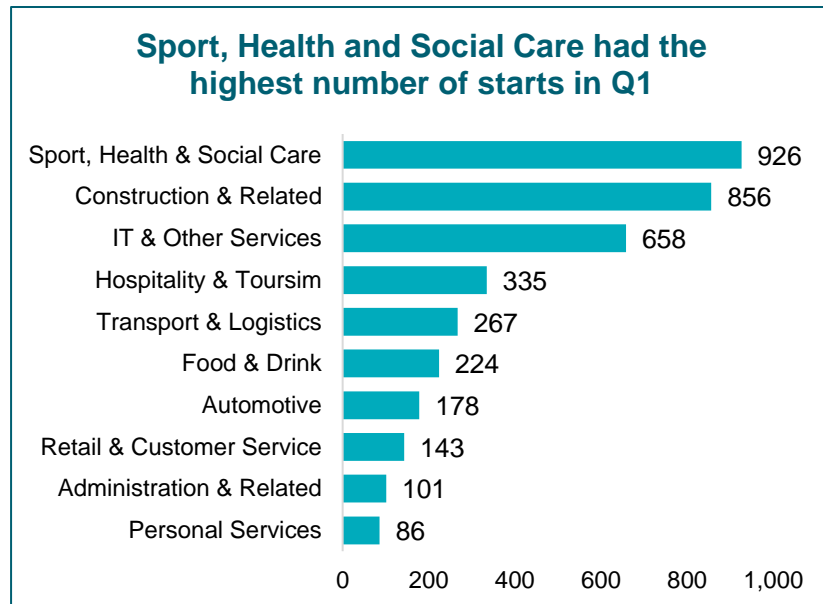


Figure 4 shows the top ten occupational groupings by number of starts. For the third year in a row, Sport, Health & Social Care had the highest number of starts (926) and the greatest proportion of starts (23.1%) in Q1, even though the number of starts was down by 96 (-9.4%).

The Construction & Related grouping had the second highest number of starts (856) and the second greatest proportion of

starts (21.4%). Furthermore, this grouping had the largest increase in starts relative to the same point last year (+35.4% or +224 starts). Much of this increase came from starts to *Construction: Professional Apprenticeship* (+39.4% or +65 starts), *Construction: Civil Engineering* (+32.5% or +41 starts), and *Construction: Technical* (+29.0% or +65 starts).

Other occupational groupings that saw an increase in the number of starts this quarter, when compared to Q1 last year, include Automotive with +86 starts (+93.5%), Food & Drink with +92 starts (+69.7%), and Transport & Logistics with +52 starts (+24.2%).

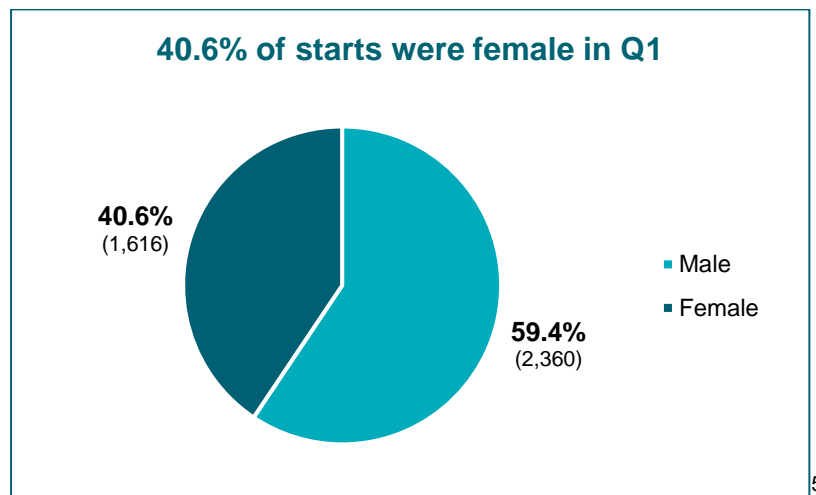
The IT & Other Services grouping had the third highest number of starts this quarter (658) and accounted for 16.4% of all starts.

Two other occupational groupings saw a notable decline in starts this quarter: Administration & Related (-47.1% or -90 starts) and Retail & Customer Service (-21.0% or -38 starts).

## Starts by gender

Female starts (as a proportion of male + female starts) fell to 40.6%, 6.8 pp lower than same point last year. This is likely due to the increase in starts to traditionally male-dominated occupational groupings like Construction & Related, Automotive, and Transport & Logistics.

**Figure 5: Gender balance of Modern Apprenticeship starts, Q1 2023/24**



<sup>5</sup> 29 Modern Apprentices recorded their gender as either 'prefer not to say' or 'in another way', 10 fewer than Q1 2022/23.

## Starts by disability

The proportion of starts self-identifying as disabled was **15.5%** in quarter 1, 0.5 pp higher than the same point last year.<sup>6</sup> The number of starts self-identifying an impairment, health condition, or learning difficulty increased from 579 to 609 (+5.2%) compared to the same point last year.

Furthermore, the disability rate is 0.8 pp higher than it was in Q1 2019/20, pre-pandemic, when 14.7% of MAs self-identified a disability.

## Starts by ethnicity

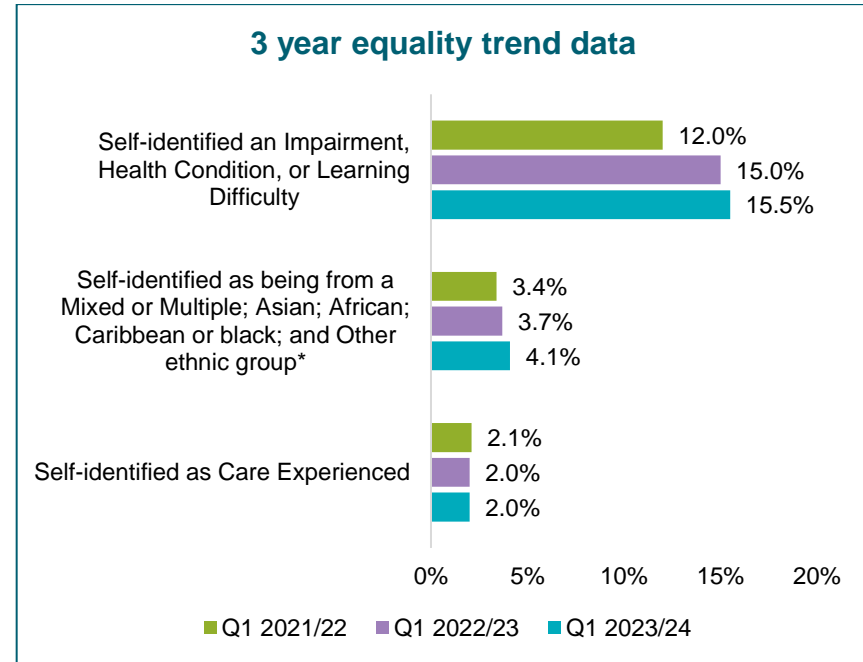
The proportion of starts self-identifying as Mixed or Multiple; Asian; African; Caribbean or black; and Other ethnic group was **4.1%** in quarter 1, 0.4 pp higher than the same point last year. This is the highest proportion of ethnic minority starts seen at this early point in the year, since SDS started to report on this characteristic. The number of starts self-identifying as an ethnic minority increased from 146 to 161 (+10.3%) relative to the same point last year.

<sup>6</sup> [The Scottish Health Survey 2022](#) shows 18% of those aged 16-24 have a limiting long-term condition (27% for those aged 25-34). Scottish Health Survey disability definition available [here](#).

### Starts by care experience

The proportion of MAs self-identifying as care experienced was **2.0%** in quarter 1, unchanged from the same point last year. The number of care experienced starts has increased from 76 to 80 (+1.5%) compared to the same point last year.

**Figure 6: Modern Apprenticeship equality rates, Q1 2021/22 to Q1 2023/24**



\*When including ethnic group 'white other' the ethnicity rate is 8.1% in Q1 2023/24.

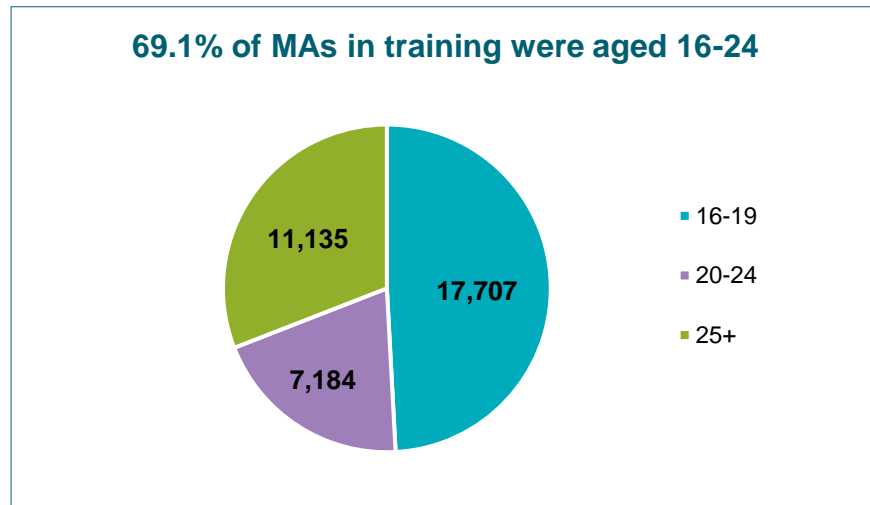


## Modern Apprenticeship: In Training

As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023, there were **36,026** Modern Apprentices in training, 2.3% (-839) lower than the same point last year.

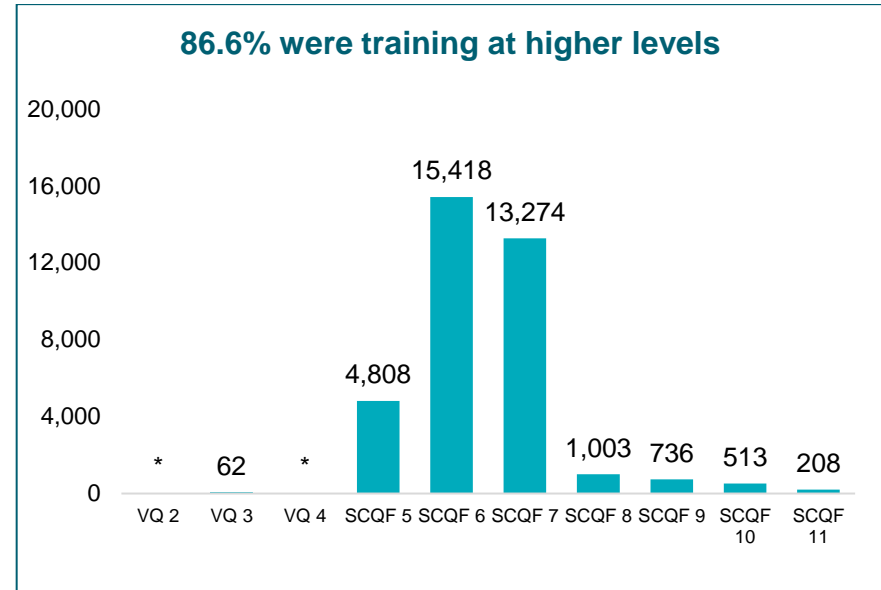
Figures 7 and 8 show Modern Apprentices in training by age group and level, respectively, at Q1 2023/24.

**Figure 7: Modern Apprentices in training by age group, at Q1 2023/24**



<sup>7</sup> Disclosure control has been applied where figures are less than 5 or where such small numbers can be identified through differencing (marked with an asterisk \*).

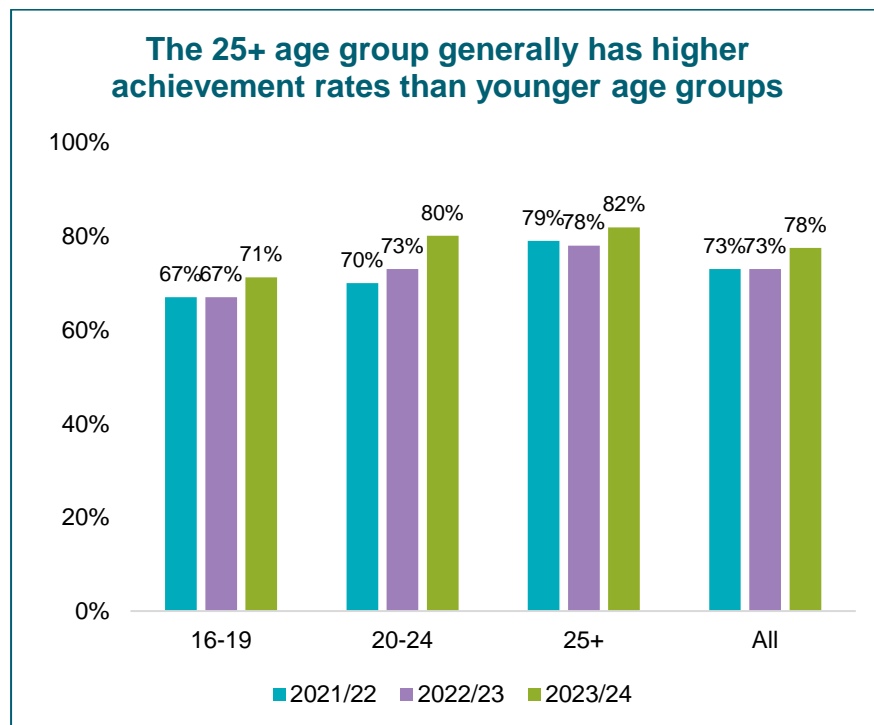
**Figure 8: Modern Apprentices in training by level, at Q1 2023/24<sup>7</sup>**



## Modern Apprenticeship: Achievements

In Q1 2023/24, the overall achievement rate was **77.5%**, with 5,474 of the 7,060 leavers achieving their full MA award, 4.5% higher than the achievement rate at the same point last year (73.1%).

**Figure 9: Modern Apprenticeship achievements by age group, Q1 2021/22 to Q1 2023/24**



**Figure 10: Modern Apprenticeship achievement rates by occupational grouping, Q1 2023/24**

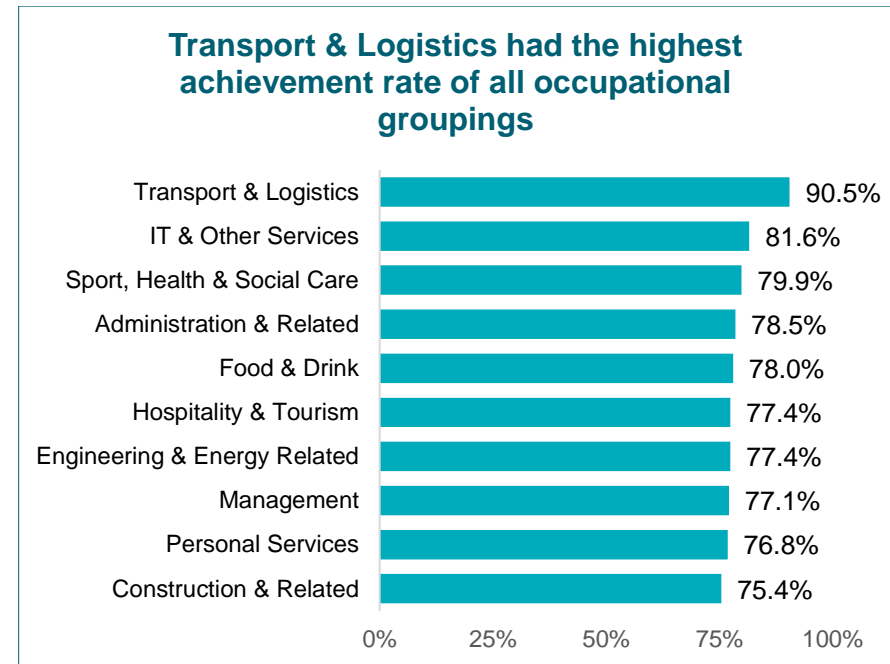


Figure 10 shows the top 10 achievement rates by occupational grouping (excluding those with fewer than 100 leavers).

## Modern Apprenticeship Redundancies

In quarter 1 2023/24, 64 Modern Apprentices were made redundant, 4 more than the same point last year (60). There were 9 individuals who continued a Modern Apprenticeship with an alternative employer and 1 of those was supported via the Adopt an Apprentice initiative enabling former apprentices to complete their training.

MAs who are made redundant can continue to positive destinations without the need for Adopt an Apprentice funding. Adopt an Apprentice information is available on the [Our Skillsforce](#) website.

## Further Information

This report provides analysis of publicly funded Modern Apprenticeship activity in the first quarter of the 2023/24 financial year.

Statistics associated with Modern Apprenticeships such as starts, in training, leavers, and achievements are provided in summary form. Further information including more detailed breakdowns of these statistics by framework, age, level, and equality characteristics can be found within our [Supplementary Tables](#) on the SDS website.

## Note to Readers

Guidance on how Modern Apprenticeship data is collected and reported is available on the SDS website [here](#). We recommend that the guidance is read prior to any further analysis.

The impact of Covid-19 has had a profound impact on the economy and MA data should be considered in this context. We recommend exercising caution when comparing figures to 2019/20 and 2020/21 statistics.

## Gender

To ensure that we enable apprentices to record their gender in the most appropriate way for them, individuals can record their gender as 'female', 'male', 'prefer not to say', or 'in another way'.

## Age

As programme funding is linked to the age of trainees, all age breakdowns in this report are based on the age of the individual when they commenced their Modern Apprenticeship.

## Level

In line with Scottish Government direction, we carried out an exercise to align MA frameworks to SCQF levels (see Appendix A).

## Frameworks

In this report, MA frameworks are classified as belonging to an SDS assigned occupational grouping. Details are available [here](#) on the SDS website.

## Starts

In April 2019 we adjusted the recording of starts, re-entrants, and progressions to accommodate the introduction of a new system to improve how Training Providers manage their contracts. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, all MA progressions are included as new starts. More details can be found [here](#) on the SDS website.

## Calculations

This report may refer to a percentage increase or decrease in values, which means the relative change between two numbers e.g., starts increased by 5% compared to the same quarter last year. The report may also refer to a percentage point (pp) increase or decrease, which means the absolute change between two percentages e.g., the achievement rate for MAs aged 25 or over increased by 8 pp.

Percentages in this report may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Similarly, calculating percentage point differences from the data presented in the report may differ slightly from figures cited in the text. This is also due to rounding.

## Contact

Any comments or suggestions regarding the content of this report are welcome and can be emailed to [user\\_feedback@sds.co.uk](mailto:user_feedback@sds.co.uk).

## Appendix A – SCQF Framework

| SCQF Levels | SQA Qualifications                              |                             | Qualifications of Higher Education Institutions | Apprenticeships & SVQs      |   |  |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 12          |   |                             | ↑   | Doctoral Degree             | Professional Apprenticeship   |  |
| 11          |   |                             |   |                             | Masters Degree, Integrated Masters Degree, Post Graduate Diploma, Post Graduate Certificate | Graduate Apprenticeship<br>Professional Apprenticeship SVQ |
| 10          |   |                             |   |                             | Honours Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate                                      | Graduate Apprenticeship<br>Professional Apprenticeship     |
| 9           |   |                             | Professional Development Award                  |                             | Bachelors / Ordinary Degree, Graduate Diploma, Graduate Certificate                         | Graduate Apprenticeship<br>Technical Apprenticeship SVQ    |
| 8           | Higher National Diploma                         |                             |   | Diploma Of Higher Education | Higher Apprenticeship<br>Technical Apprenticeship SVQ                                       |  |
| 7           | Advanced Higher, Awards, Scottish Baccalaureate | Higher National Certificate |   |                             | Certificate Of Higher Education   | Modern Apprenticeship SVQ                                  |
| 6           | Higher, Awards, Skills for Work Higher          | ↑                           |   |                             |   |  |
| 5           | National 5, Awards, Skills for Work National 5  | ↓                           |   |                             |   |  |
| 4           | National 4, Awards, Skills for Work National 4  | National Certificate        | National Progression Award                      |                             |   |  |
| 3           | National 3, Awards, Skills for Work National 3  |                             |   |                             |   |  |
| 2           | National 2, Awards                              | ↓                           |   |                             |   |  |
| 1           | National 1, Awards                              |                             |   |                             |   |  |

<sup>8</sup> Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework: [The SCQF Interactive Framework](#)